



Request for Information Number: RFI-OAA-17-000100

Amendment Number: 01

Date of Issue: November 22nd, 2016

Issued by: USAID/LAB

Issued Through: Office of Acquisition and Assistance

Industry Day: Participants' Questions and Comments

Procurement and Process Questions

1. Regarding RFI submissions, is each 'organization' (e.g. university) limited to one submission?
 - a. No, there is no limit to the number of submissions each "organization" may make under this RFI.
2. Can you indicate scope of programming? 5 year programs? Shorter level engagement?
 - a. No, at this time USAID does not know what the scope of programming will look like. The Global Development Lab is considering a large variety of options and will most likely end up soliciting for a variety of different types of programming mechanisms. As noted in the RFI, however, the ability to support agile, evidence-based programming will be a key component as we consider the type of mechanisms to construct.
3. Can we access the slides from the Industry Day presentation?
 - a. The slides are attached as a PDF appendix at the end of this Amendment. [[PPT file](#)]
4. What is the time-scale to RFA/RFP?
 - a. At this time, USAID is envisioning that we would be in program design throughout Winter 2016/17 and would likely endeavor to post a solicitation(s) in early to mid-2017. As soon as USAID has a clear path forward on the type of solicitation(s) we will be posting, the information about pending solicitations, if any, will be added to the Business Forecast. At this time, we anticipate that Award(s) would not be made until early 2018.
5. What value do you place on match/cost-share when evaluating potential partnerships?
 - a. The Global Development Lab aims to support activities and programs that have catalytic effects beyond the support we provide. In general, the Lab aims to have a significant leverage ratio for each dollar of USAID funding applied, with a target of partners generating \$2 of funding (through cost-share and leverage) for every \$1 contributed by USAID. That said, the Lab has not determined what the next round of our research programming will look like at this time. Therefore it would

not be appropriate for us to determine what match, if any, would be requested of applicants/offers.

6. Is there any role for proprietary info in RFI responses?
 - a. If you submit any proprietary information via your RFI response you must clearly label it as such.
7. Does an incumbent exist for the potential requirement: USAID LAB RFI: Request for Information on programming to increase the use of scientific research to improve development outcomes outlined under RFI-OAA-17-000100. If so, could you please provide the following information?
 - a. There is no incumbent for the specific programming paths outlined in the USAID LAB RFI: Request for Information on Programming to increase the use of scientific research to improve development outcomes. That said, the Center for Development Research (which released this RFI) has three core programs that also work to support our Science objective. They are the: [Partnerships for Enhanced Education in Research \(PEER\)](#) program, [Higher Education Solutions Network](#) program, and a series of Science & Technology Fellowships programs supported by the Lab, including the [Research and Innovation Fellowship](#), [Jefferson Science Fellowship](#), and [American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science & Technology Policy Fellowship](#). Each of these existing programs does have incumbents and information can be found about them on www.usaid.gov.

Strategy Questions

1. How would you rank/prioritize the 'themes' of the RFI?
 - a. The Center for Development Research is focused on the Science Objective: To increase the use of scientific research to improve development outcomes. We recognize that there are many ways of achieving this objective and are not currently prioritizing any theme, pathway, or area of programming.
2. Are there sectors you're prioritizing? Ag? Health? Education? ICT?
 - a. The Center for Development Research works with many different operating units and Missions within USAID and does not prioritize any particular sector at this time.
3. How do/are you planning to increase outreach to accelerate local scientific potential?
 - a. USAID, through its Missions, has strong partnerships with several institutions, universities, and other development actors in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Additionally, the Center for Development Research engages with many individual researchers and research institutions in LMICs through its current programming and network of partners. Moving forward, CDR hopes to use this RFI to identify ways to ensure that we are placing even greater emphasis on

- engaging with local researchers and research institutions in its future programming.
- b. Recently, USAID has been working closely with country Ministries and Science Funding Agencies to help increase their support of local research and development. CDR intends to continue to work with countries to unlock local and sustainable resources to bolster local scientific potential.
4. What does the Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) value most from university partners, based on the past 4.5 years?
 - a. In general, the current HESN partners have contributed technical expertise, academic rigor, and cross-sectoral problem-solving capabilities to the Agency. Beyond this, the HESN community has demonstrated a tremendous ability to execute co-design, co-creation and collaboration with the “customers” who would benefit from the work of the network. This includes development practitioners, community members, policymakers, NGOs, other academics and a vast array of others actors within the ecosystem of development - all critical players to increase the impact of work done within academia with application to immediate challenges.
 - b. Additionally, faculty, staff and students have provided exceptional energy and enthusiasm for working with USAID on international development challenges. HESN partners also contributed additional resources through cost-sharing and leverage which enabled their programs to achieve more.

Technical Questions

1. How does USAID/HESN view the role of service and experiential learning in the research for development process? (US and global students)?
 - a. Students are an integral part of the research for development process. USAID supports investing in the next generation of development professionals and encouraging more students to pursue research activities related to international development through a variety of current programs. At this time, CDR has not defined the role of students and service/experiential learning in its new programming.
2. What KRI's/endpoints do you use to measure whether a program has improved development outcomes?
 - a. CDR is interested in designing the most innovative and effective solutions from a wide variety of sources. To this end, we are asking the public for its assistance in helping us understand what those solutions are and how we can determine their effectiveness. Therefore, Key Risk Indicators or specific endpoints have not yet been formulated as we anticipate that those indicators/endpoints will be specific to the type of programming proposed. Once CDR has a better sense of the needs and demands for different types of programming within an area of focus then we

will use the public's contributions through this RFI to help us draft risk and performance criteria that will refine and improve those solutions within the context of a potential follow-on request for proposals or request for applications.

3. Are you looking for tech solutions only? What if we have a sustainable program to train and develop innovators to create tech solutions for impact?
 - a. We are not exclusively seeking technological innovations. Approaches, services, trainings, and other interventions that increase the use of scientific research to improve development outcomes are all of interest.
4. How do you define 'scientific research'?
 - a. The USAID Scientific Research Policy references the definition of research as defined by the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) - systematic and creative activities undertaken to increase the knowledge base, including understanding of humankind, culture, environment, and society, and the application of this knowledge base to devise new interventions.
 - b. The USAID Scientific Research Policy can be found here:
<https://www.usaid.gov/policy/scientific-research>.
5. Do you accept independent contractors?
 - a. For this RFI, inputs are requested from all types of individuals and organizations.
6. Question area: 2 asks: 'how might we design an innovative approach'. Are you interested in the design process, or the characteristics of the approach itself?
 - a. We're more interested in the characteristics of the approach.

Other Questions

1. Is the HESN mid-term review available to the public? Where?
 - a. Yes. The mid-term evaluation report can be found here:
<https://www.globalinnovationexchange.org/resources/hesn-midterm-performance-evaluation-report>.